

**PROTEST AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN PAULO COELHO'S
ELEVEN MINUTES NOVEL (2003) : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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MEDISTA AYU NINGSIH

A320110098

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
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UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

Jl. A. Yani Tromol Pos 1 - Pabelan Kartasura Telp (0271) 717417, Fax : 715448 Surakarta 57102

Website: <http://www.ums.ac.id> Email: ums@ums.ac.id

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Nama : Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S.
NIK : 410
Nama : Titis Setyabudi, S. S, M, Hum.
NIK : 948

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NIM : A 320 110 098
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
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Pembimbing I

Pembimbing II

Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S.
NIK. 410

Titis Setyabudi S.S, M. Hum
NIK. 948

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Medista Ayu Ningsih

A 320 110 098

Medizta@yahoo.com

M. Thoyibi

Titis Setyabudi

Department of English Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (2015)

ABSTRACT

This research paper aims at knowing protest against humans trafficking in Eleven Minutes novel by Paulo Coelho which is analyzed by using sociological approach. The objective of the research is to analyze the novel based on sociological approach proposed by Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood. The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Data of the research are taken from primary and secondary data. The method of analyzing this data is descriptive analysis. Based on the sociological analysis, the author illustrates a sociological phenomenon which should make every effort to cope with the problem of life. The sociological phenomenon is shown by the struggle of Maria to survive in Switzerland after as fraud victim in humans trafficking. Maria uses her creativity to protest against humans trafficking.

Keywords: Humans Trafficking, Sociological Approach, Eleven Minutes.

A. Introduction

Eleven Minutes is a novel by Paulo Coelho published in 2003. It is translated from Portuguese language by Margaret Jull Costa. *Eleven Minutes* fifth edition, there are 360 pages consisting of adventure novels. Eleven minutes is the sexual act itself only takes about eleven minutes. But to make the eleven-minutes means for its customers. Paulo was interested in writing *Eleven Minutes* novel because he was inspired by an author named Irving Wallace who wrote a novel with title *The Seven Minutes* that told about the censorship practice mass media in America that was forbidden by American Government. In 2000 Paulo found the manuscript sent by Sonia. The manuscript told about a true story of a Brazilian prostitute, her problems in law and all about her journey. Sonia sent her manuscript to a publisher in Brazil, but it was rejected. Paulo was interested in writing about sex, but he did not have plot of the story and the character, but from his vacation to Langstrasse he got the lesson to write the holiness of sex. Finally he wrote *Eleven Minutes* in which Maria was the main character at his novel (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 289-291).

There are four reasons why the researcher is interested to analyze the novel. The first, *Eleven Minutes* has good quality. There are many people who are interested in reading and giving the response or critic. The novel also tells about story that easy to understand. The author does not use the difficult words or language to deliver his idea. Then, in this novel the author gives the moral message that the person has to arrange their strategy to survive and cope with the problem of life.

The second, *Eleven Minutes* has an interesting story about the journey of a prostitute to survive in the country. Coelho tells the story by Maria as major character in his novel. It tells about Brazilian woman called Maria who has strategy to survive in Switzerland but her strategy is different. Maria does anything until she decides to be a prostitute in Copacabana nightclub and saving her money to create her plan after she comes back to Brazil. Based on the public responses, there are many people who are interested in reading *Eleven Minutes*.

Third reason, *Eleven Minutes* is a novel by Paulo Coelho that is different from his novel before. Paulo takes about sex as the element of the novel. It is different from his novel before. Novel that adapted about sex is rarely, so it is different from other novels.

The last reason is Paulo describes the character, setting, plot, style, and point of view in the *Eleven Minutes* clearly. Paulo takes some characters that have different personality in this novel. They also have different background. The setting in *Eleven Minutes* is also interesting, it happens in two countries, namely Brazil and Swiss. Paulo used the language that is easy to understand. So the readers who read this novel can understand the story of the novel.

Sociology is the study that deals with human's life in the society (Saraswati, 2003: 2). Swingewood (Faruk, 1994: 1) also states that sociology is a study on people in society and on the social process and the institution embedded on it. Therefore the basis of the understanding is the society thus sociological theory is the appropriate approach in this research.

Based on the background of study, the writer concerns to analyze "How is Protest against Human Trafficking of the major characters reflected in *Eleven Minutes*?"

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows: first to analyze Paulo Coelho *Eleven Minutes* novel based on structural elements of the novel, second to Protest against Human Trafficking of the major and some minor characters by means of sociological perspective particularly Sociological Approach.

There is some research that is used by the researcher as a guidance of this study, the first previous research related to the study was conducted by Aprilia Lestari (English Literature, Language and Arts Faculty, State University of Surabaya: 2014) in his research paper entitled "Maria's Self-Transcendence in Paulo Coelho's *Eleven Minutes*" in her research about the psychological condition of the main character namely Maria.

<http://ejournal.unesa.ac.id/index.php/language-horizon/article/view/6982>).

The second research is also review form that was done by Ganesan Kavitha entitled *The Spiritual Journey of a Prostitute in Coelho's Eleven Minutes* focuses on *Eleven Minutes* holds the most controversial status owing to its storyline. It vividly, with most astounding style of writing revolves around the protagonist (i.e. Maria), a prostitute, with a beginning point where she decides that this could be an exciting and adventurous job. A spiritual realization, ironically, in the case of this novel, emerges through the "eleven minutes" of sacred sex. Therefore, it is the aim of this paper to examine the ways in which Coelho had portrayed the sexual journey of a prostitute as a spiritual one.

<http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/25044027/spiritual-journey-prostitute-coelhos-eleven-minutes>).

The third at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, *A Struggle for a Better Life Reflected in Paulo Coelho's Eleven Minutes Novel* (2003): An Individual Psychological Approach by Ika Puji Astuti in 2014. The major problem in this thesis is how Maria struggles to get the better life (<http://etd.eprints.ums.ac.id/28251/>).

Sociology is essentially the scientific and objective study about people in society, it also studies about some social institutions and social processes (Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood 1972: 11). Sociology is related to the description of the ways people adapt by themselves with the certain societies. The description of socialization mechanism, the cultural processes that happen gradually or revolutionary with some effects of that changing.

Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood (1972: 17-21) state that the sociology of literature is divided into three kinds: (1) sociology of the author, it focuses in the author's view about his society and live (Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood, 1972: 17), (2) sociology of the society of the author where lives, it is the study about the influence by the society and social condition in which particular literature works appears (Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood, 1972: 18), and (3) sociology of the reader of audience, it is the study about the influence of the literary

works to the reader. It can be on their response, opinions, their way of life, the attitude of the reader after reading the literary work (Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood, 1972: 21).

B. Research Method

The research about this novel belongs to qualitative research. Qualitative research is a type of research that does not use enumeration and calculation. The researcher classifies her research into qualitative research because the research does not need a statistic data to analyze and explore the facts. The object of the study is *Eleven Minutes* novel by Paulo Coelho fifth edition which is published in 2003. It is analyzed by using Sociological Approach. Type of the data in this research is textual data. It consists of word, phrase and sentences. The data source consists of two categories; they are primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel itself. The secondary data source is about behaviorist and all relevant materials in the novel. The technique of collecting data are reading and understanding *Eleven Minutes* novel by Paulo Coelho and the secondary data sources from the others books, Identifying data that can be analyzed, Classifying data into some categories, Selecting some particular parts that important and relevant for the analysis, Reading some book as reference, search using internet, and make some note which related to the analysis. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis.

C. Finding and Discussion

1. Finding

a. Social Aspects

This novel Paolo Coelho shows the social aspect clearly. These aspects consist of social structure, social status, and social activities. The social structure of *Eleven Minutes* novel society is divided into three classes. They are upper class, middle class, and lower class.

Upper class in this novel is like the men who arrived from Russia, Swiss, German, all of them are top executives, they able to afford the service of the most expensive prostitutes in one of the most expensive cities in the world. The middle class is filled by people who are educated and moderate income as Mailson (he is an interpreter), Vivian (she is the official employee). While Maria comes from lower economic classes, his father is a salesman and his mother a seamstress only.

In addition to the social structure, social relations also form the daily life of Maria.

Milan does not differentiate customers, between Milan and its customers already have a code of ethics, they understand each other.

The owner of the Copacabana did not judge by appearances, and he was always right. It was a good working relationship, and seemed to suit Parties involved (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 181).

Maria judges that men and women are not much different equally wants to find meaning in life, not just sex, but rather the sense of love, affection and live a happy life with his partner.

She thinks about the other prostitutes who work with her. She thinks about her mother and her friends. They all believe that man feels desire for only eleven minutes a day, and that they'll pay a fortune for it. That's not true; a man is also a woman; he wants to find someone, to give meaning to his life (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 225).

b. Economic Aspect

Economic aspect in the life of Maria covered the structure of livelihoods, living standards, industrialization at that time and also the application of economic principles.

Prostitution is a strange but very profitable. Migrant's beginners who lack experience earn higher and vice versa.

‘Prostitution isn’t like other businesses: beginners earn more and the more experienced earn less. Always pretend you’re a beginner’ (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 83).

Living standards for example:

In Switzerland prostitutes work standards are distributed in several stages and the work areas are differentiated according to age and working hours. In the end they come to the last place is Tropical Exstasy.

Most of the prostitutes who worked there were aged between eighteen and twenty two and they stayed, on average, for two years, when they would be replaced by newer recruits. They then moved to the Neon, then to the Xenium, and the price went down as the woman’s age went up, and the hours of work grew fewer and fewer. They almost all ended up in the Tropical Extasy, who accepted women over thirty, but once they were there, they could only just earn enough to pay for their lunch and their rent by going with one or two students a day (the average fee per client was just about enough to buy a bottle of cheap wine) (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 85).

Industrialization for example:

Switzerland is famous as a major producer of cocoa, milk and clocks.

Switzerland was once more the country of chocolate, cows and clocks (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 89).

c. Political Aspect

Political aspects include domestic politics that includes the role of the authorities against citizens, in this case the regulating prostitution and also political person in achieving its objectives.

The role of the ruler shown in the following statement;

In the sixth century BC prostitution began to be organized and taxed by the state of Greek. It aims to maintain order and security and increase the income of the Greek kingdom of a new sector, namely prostitution.

Prostitutes appear in classical texts, in Egyptian hieroglyphs, in Sumerian writings, in the Old and New Testament. But the profession only started to become organized

in the sixth century bc, when a Greek legislator, Solon, set up state-controlled brothels and began imposing taxes on “the skin trade” (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 219).

Political someone in achieving its objectives:

Maria uses her beauty to seduce her employer that salary increases by leaps and bounds, knowing that beauty is not eternal; she had to take advantage of it.

Beauty, my dear, doesn’t last. With this in mind, she continued to keep her boss at arm’s length, though without putting him off completely, this brought her a considerable increase in salary... (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 17).

The role of the community or someone in the political process:

Upscale prostitute who used to accompany the executives had a role in politics and until today it is still valid, political decisions are sometimes the result of discussion on the bed.

The female companion, who accompanied businessmen on their trips, dine in chic restaurants, controlled her own money, gave advice and meddled in the political life of the city. As you See’ what happened then still happens now (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 219).

d. Science and Technology

The aspect of the development of science and technology includes important issues certain fields of science, the creation of a specific technology and its effects on humans (human behavior) and the environment as follows:

Important issues certain fields of science:

Maria always tries to improve themselves in the field of science such as; geography and mathematics to facilitate memorization in theory or formula of the science.

She learned geography and mathematics, she began following the soaps on TV; at school, she read her first erotic magazine (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 83).

The creation of a specific technology and its effects on humans (human behavior) and the environment:

Mobile phone simplifies Maria in the affairs of his work especially in communication, for example notifying her family by phone and mainly waiting for work calls using a mobile phone.

Since she had no permanent address, she bought a mobile phone, the sort that use prepaid phone cards, and in the days that followed, she waited for job offers (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 50).

e. Cultural Aspect

Cultural aspects of the novel *Eleven Minutes* include norms, rules or laws, customs or traditions prevailing at that time, the arts and other public works.

Norm's example:

There are rules in the Rue de Berne called Omerta, namely all the problems resolved without the intervention of the authorities. All things will be resolved according to the guide lines of norms and environmental laws that have been agreed upon.

This was the law of silence, or what Italian prostitutes like to call omerta: any problem to be resolved in Rue de Berne, from love death, would be resolved, but without the interference of the law. They made their own laws there (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 180).

The arts and other public works:

Brazilian samba dance is very famous all over the world. Maria was very interested to learn the dance.

I went to the nightclub and met the dance director who comes from somewhere called Morocco, and I had to learn every step of what he who has never set foot in Brazil thinks it the samba (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 41).

f. Religious Aspect

Religious aspects covering important issues related to religious beliefs, appearance or popularity of a particular religious denominations, appearance or application of the rules or the religious law associated with the problem at that time, the existence of places of worship and implementation of worship.

Important issues related to religious beliefs:

Many people fall victim to outbreaks of disease which they called Black Death (Wrath of God). They thought that the disease appeared in retaliation for the sins they have done to the creator.

A strange disease had spread throughout Europe, and no one knew why so many people were dying. They began to call the disease the Black Death sent by God because of mankind's sins (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 158).

Appearance or popularity of a particular religious denominations:

The history of practice sacred prostitution exists since two thousand years ago, but disappeared because people have changed the rules with the new religion. New emerging religion teaches people to be more humane, civilized and better life-style based on the norms, not just life-style to meet the desires of lust.

No one knows why sacred prostitution disappeared, Ince it had lasted not centuries, perhaps, but for at least millennia. Maybe it was disease or because society changed its rules when it changes religions. Anyway, it no longer exists, and will never exist again; nowadays, men control the world, and the term serves only to create a stigma and any woman who steps out of line is automatically dubbed a prostitute (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 221).

Appearance or application of the rules or the religious law associated with the problem at that time:

All the female waiters are required to teach the youth of the temple reaches sexual maturity in order to maintain the sacred fire in the temple.

Ancient belief says that holy water will stay on as long as they keep the tradition of ritual sex.

In order to keep the sacred fire burning, the women serving her temple were responsible for initiating young men and kings on the path of sexuality they sang erotic hymns, entered trance like states and gave their ecstasy to the universe in a kind of communion with the divinity' (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 220-221).

The existence of places of worship and implementation of worship:

Maria got a form of a medal with a chain from his mother, who carved a prayer. The medal is a symbol of confidence of their religion hereditary in Maria's family.

He took a medal on a chain out of his pocket. 'It's the Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of the Graces. She has a church in Paris, so go there and pray for her protection. Look, there are some words engraved around the Virgin'. Maria read: 'Hail Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who turn to you. Amen' (*Eleven Minutes*, 2003: 35-36).

2. Discussion

Sociology refers to a social science involving the study of social lives of people, groups, and societies. Sociology is essentially the scientific and objective study about people in society; it also studies about some social institutions and social processes (Laurenson and Swingwood, 1972: 11).

The relation between literature and society usually discussed by starting with the phrase, derived from De Bonald, that 'literature is an expression of society'. It is assumed that literature, at any given time, mirrors the current social situation 'correctly', it is false; it is commonplace, trite, and vague if it means only that literature depicts some aspects of social reality (Wellek and Warren, 1962: 95).

Based on the sociological analysis in *Eleven Minutes* novel, the writer concludes that Paulo Coelho as the author of this novel explains the social

condition in Brazil, especially the nightlife of Rue de Berne street in Geneva, Switzerland. He shows the condition in the end of nineteenth century.

Paulo Coelho criticized the social reality in Geneva although the theme, story and characterization in the new eleven minutes. This story theme of prostitution is not a good way to solve problems. This is represented in the main character of the novel. Maria is portrayed as a woman who was trapped in the world of prostitution. But in the end he decided to stop and build a new life in his hometown in Sertao alongside Ralf true love.

Paulo Coelho tells the reader that he did not agree about the views of society Geneva. Along the Rue de Berne region there are almost no educated people. Most women prostitute themselves in order to meet the demands of economy. Paulo Coelho thinks that prostitution is not a good way to meet the economic demands.

The essence of this novel Paulo Coelho criticized human trafficking, especially prostitution. Prostitution is the act of a woman or a man whose sexual activity for a wage. Cases like Maria often happens, usually people who are trapped in prostitution are those from lower economic classes. Economic factors and social status becomes a major factor.

Based on all the aspects that are reflected in *Eleven Minutes*, there is a connection between this novel and the community in the late nineteenth century. Based on the analysis, it would have been for the author to declare the social conditions that match the main idea Paulo Coelho seen by a sociological perspective.

D. Conclusion

After analyzing *Eleven Minutes*, researchers describe the following conclusion.

Based on sociological analysis, it can be concluded that there is relationship between this novel and the social reality of Switzerland society in the late nineteenth century. This novel describes the social aspects, economic aspects, political aspects, science and technology aspects, cultural aspects, and the last is the religious aspect. Paulo Coelho wanted to tell the social problems in society Switzerland, especially in the Rue de Berne, an area of prostitution in the city of Geneve.

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